



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2008

CONTACT: HFD Public Affairs, 713-495-7900

FIREFIGHTERS TO CANVASS AREA OF FATAL FIRE

WHAT: HFD Firefighters will promote fire safety and prevention in the area of today's fatal fire in which an elderly woman died.

WHEN: Tomorrow, March 7, 2008, starting at 10 a.m.

WHERE: In the neighborhood around 8646 Othello, Key Map 495L

DETAILS: In an effort to prevent such tragedies and to encourage fire safety, members of the Houston Fire Department will be distributing safety information and smoke alarms in the neighborhood of the first fatal residential fire of this year. HFD arson investigators are currently investigating the cause of the fire.

When it comes to smoke alarms, silence can be deadly. National and local statistics reflect this deadly silence with more than 50 percent of all residential fatal fires not having a working smoke alarm.

The Houston Fire Department reminds citizens that when they set their clocks back this weekend, to check the batteries in their smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries due to no smoke alarm or a non—working smoke alarm.

“Working smoke detectors provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape,” said Captain Beda Kent, HFD Public Affairs. “This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors.”

Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.

Citizens who cannot afford or otherwise install a working smoke alarm in their homes (renters - landlords should install a smoke alarm) may visit their local Houston Fire Station for a smoke alarm, call the HFD Public Affairs Office at 713-495-7900 or join the HFD for an open house at Fire Station 25, 3902 Scott Street near the U of H main campus, this Saturday, March 8, from 10 am to 1pm

During the canvassing, media may page Captain Homero Ponce-Lopez at 713-891-0977.

